

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
1 April 2004 (01.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/027776 A1

(51) International Patent Classification: **G11B 27/034**,
H04N 7/50, 7/26

(11) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2003/003955

(22) International Filing Date: 29 August 2003 (29.08.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
02102367.6 17 September 2002 (17.09.2002) EP

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

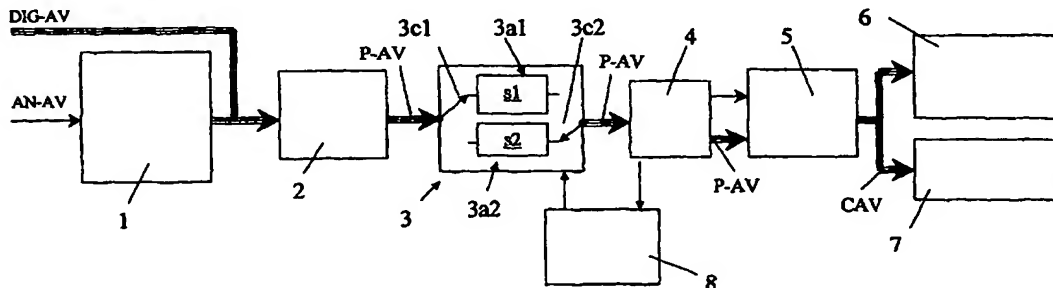
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: VIDEO CODING METHOD



(57) Abstract: In a coding method and coding system to generate a compressed data stream (CAV) with a variable bit rate from digital audio and/or video signals, with a prescribed limitation on the overall bit quantity/rate of the data stream, the signals are written to segments (s1, s2) of a temporary buffer (3) and analyzed as to the complexity of the signals in an analysis means (4). With the complexity information (C-INF) thereby obtained, the audio and/or video signals read from the temporary buffer (3) segment by segment are converted in a compression means (5) into the compressed data stream (CAV) with a variable bit rate, wherein the bit rate of the generated data stream is distributed within the segment as a function of the complexity information and of a segment-overall-bit-quantity provided for the segment in question. The data stream (CAV) may be stored in a memory means (6) or transmitted via a data transmission means (7).